

REMARKS

Claims 51-58 are presented for consideration, with Claims 51, 54, 57 and 58 being independent.

The independent claims have been amended to further distinguish Applicant's invention from the cited art.

Claims 51-58 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over Aosaki '359 in view of Hatakenaka '542. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 51 relates to an image pickup apparatus comprised of an image pickup unit for obtaining a digital image, an interface for connecting to a storage medium which stores the digital image obtained by the image pickup unit, a reproducing unit for reading out the digital image stored in the storage medium via the interface and causing a display apparatus to display the read-out image, and a designating unit for designating the image displayed on the display apparatus as a print subject for an external printer communicating with the image pickup apparatus. As amended, Claim 51 now includes an operation unit for effecting a changeover operation of an image to be displayed, and a display control unit that causes the display apparatus to display a print setting screen in accordance with a first designation provided to the designating unit when the image pickup apparatus is communicating with the external printer and is in a state in which an image to be displayed on the display apparatus is changeable in accordance with an operation of the operation unit. In addition, a printing control unit instructs the external printer to print the image displayed by the display apparatus in response to a second designation provided to the designating unit successively to the first designation.

Support for the claim amendments can be found, for example, in Figure 9 and the corresponding specification on page 25, line 16, *et. seq.* In accordance with Applicant's claimed invention, an efficient and easy to operate image pickup apparatus is provided.

The primary citation to Aosaki relates to a still camera having a printer incorporated therein and capable of making a hard copy of an image from image data written in a memory. The Office Action asserts that Aosaki includes an image pickup unit, an interface, a reproducing unit and a designating unit as set forth in Applicant's claims.

In contrast to Claim 51 of Applicant's invention, however, Aosaki is not read to teach or suggest, among other features, an operation unit for effecting a changeover operation of an image to be displayed on the display apparatus and a display control unit for causing the display apparatus to display a print setting screen, in accordance with a first designation provided to the designating unit when the image pickup apparatus is communicating with the external printer and is in a state in which an image to be displayed on the display apparatus is changeable in accordance with an operation of the operation unit. In Aosaki, a print mode key 80 is operated to initiate the print mode. The number of prints in Aosaki is determined by operating cursor keys 78c and 78d, and an execution key 78b is operated to initiate the printing. Aosaki also fails to provide a printing control unit for printing the displayed image in response to a second designation provided to a designating unit successively to the first designation.

The secondary citation to Hatakenaka relates to an electronic camera and was cited for its teaching of an external printer. Hatakenaka fails, however, to compensate for the deficiencies in Aosaki as discussed above.

Accordingly, the proposed combination of Aosaki and Hatakenaka, even if proper, still fails to teach or suggest Claim 51 of Applicant's invention. Claims 54, 57 and 58 relate to a control method, a computer program product and a computer-readable medium storing a program, respectively, and correspond to Claim 51. These claims are thus also submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons discussed above.

Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Applicant's invention as set forth in independent Claims 51, 54, 57 and 58 is patentable over the cited art. In addition, dependent Claims 52, 53, 55 and 56 set forth additional features of Applicant's invention. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

SEVENTH SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed foreign documents are also enclosed.

The concise explanations of relevance for the non-English documents are provided by their accompanying English-language abstracts.

For the Examiner's information, U.S. Patent No. 5,815,080 corresponds to Japanese Document No. 6-153188; U.S. Patent No. 5,793,367 corresponds to Japanese Document No. 6-205409; U.S. Patents No. 5,717,496, No. 5,806,072, No. 5,914,787, No. 6,111,662, No. 6,583,893 and U.S. Patent Application No. 2006-044397 correspond to Japanese Document No. 6-217175; U.S. Patents No. 5,844, No. 6,075,566 and No. 6,151,067 correspond to Japanese Document No. 6-343137; U.S. Patent No. 6,618,553 corresponds to Japanese Document No. 11-046331; U.S. Patent No. 6,563,542 corresponds to Japanese Document No. 11-088742; European Patent Application No. 0944247 corresponds to Japanese Document No. 11-266384; U.S. Patent No. 6,947,075 corresponds to Japanese Document No. 11-306119; and U.S. Patent No. 6,288,792 corresponds to Japanese Document No. 11-88815.

The fee for \$180.00 pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c) and §1.17(p) is being paid electronically.

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that an initialed copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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